CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE FIFTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD WEDNESDAY, 14 JANUARY 1987, AT 7:00 P.M. IN ROOM H-762, HALL BUILDING, SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS CAMPUS

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING:

BD-59-D1: South African Investment in Canada
BD-59-D2: Co-Presidential Goals and Priorities: 1986-87
BD-59-D3: Education V.P. Report
BD-59-D4: External Committee Report
BD-59-D5: Programming V.P. Report
BD-59-D6: Services V.P. Report

Prior to the calling to order, Scott White gave an audio-visual presentation on the luminaries of Concordia University and the role of the Board of Governors, Senate, Concordia Council on Student Life, and CUSA.

1.1 Roll Call:

PRESENT:

Co-Presidents:

Karen Takacs
Scott White

Commerce:

Karen Ashton
Andrew Bayouk
Scott Bergen
Lyse Edery
Tony Ghannamy

Fine Arts:

Ian Fleet

Arts and Science:

Jeannette Chayer
Glen Cheverie
Mike Foster
Jim Locke
Linda Piovesan
Bettina Rosenberg (8:05)
Morty Shapiro

Engineering:

Patrick Douek
Louis Hotte
Jon Jolivet (8:20)

ABSENT:

Arts and Science: Maria Calderone (W/R), Joe Fortune, Mark Legault, Effie Panousos (W/R), Emma Tibaldo (W/R)
Commerce: Aris Kekedjian
Engineering: Dan Artola
Fine Arts: Francois Gurik, Keren Penney

Advisors to the Board Present: Graham Wall, Judicial Board; Cherine Hamam, Programming V.P.; Susan Hunt, Student Life V.P.; Scott Robertson, Education V.P.; Paul Zaleski, Communications V.P.

1.2 Call to Order:

Chairperson John Moore called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

2 Approval of Agenda:

MOVE to approve the Agenda.

Moved by: Scott White
Seconded by: Morty Shapiro

There were no objections to this Motion.

3 Approval of Minutes.

3.1 Approval of Minutes of the 57th Meeting:

MOVE to approve the Minutes of the 57th Meeting of the Board of Directors.

Moved by: Scott Bergen
Seconded by: Morty Shapiro

There were no objections to this Motion.

3.2 Approval of Minutes of the 58th Meeting:

MOVE to approve the Minutes of the 58th Meeting of the Board of Directors.

Moved by: Scott Bergen
Seconded by: Ian Fleet

There were no objections to this Motion.

4 Chairperson's Remarks:

Chairperson John Moore stated that he had no remarks to make at this point in time.

5 Reports:

5.1 Co-Presidents' Report:

Karen Takacs introduced Cathy Duncan, whom the Board had appointed as Student Researcher to the Status of Women Office at the 58th Meeting of the Board. Cathy Duncan stated that she had begun to do preliminary research on a bridging program for the Status of Women Office, and that she would be continuing to do research as well as organizing seminars and a small conference in the future.

Karen Takacs reported that the Co-Presidents and Bettina Rosenberg had met yesterday with the lawyer about the Academic Materials Fee case to be heard in Small Claims Court on Thursday, January 29th at 1:30 p.m. in Room 14.03 of the Palais de Justice. Scott White stated that the lawyer is confident of Bettina Rosenberg's chances to win the case, and the matter can be referred to a higher court as a class action suit at a later date. Scott White stated that he would like to see approximately 20-30 people in the courthouse for support. On another legal front, Scott White reported that the Jean Robertson case will be coming to trial in February.

Karen Takacs reported that the proposal for the Women's Centre has been drafted. The proposal represents a compromise whereby the Women's Centre will be within the Simone de Beauvoir Institute with a Steering Committee of representatives for all areas of the University. Having representatives from all areas of the University will help in the search for financing, and it will also secure the permanency of the Women's Centre because if it was solely-operated by CUSA its future would depend on the administration of CUSA each year.

Karen Takacs stated that the Co-Presidents met with Vice-Rectors Giguere and Cohen about obtaining more funds for CUSA from the Part-time Students' Fund and CUSA Centre Inc. Fund. She added that the meeting went very well and the Co-Presidents should know more next week about the availability of funds.

Scott White reported that the audited statements have been received, however there were not enough copies to go around. The deficit resulting from 1985-86 is $276,153 even though the year started with a surplus of $56,000. Karen Takacs stated that if CUSA stays within its budget for this year, the deficit at the end of the year will be approximately $60,000. Scott White commented that he was very satisfied with the performance of Arthur Anderson and Co., the new auditors appointed last April.

Karen Takacs stated that the Co-Presidents will be meeting with representatives of the Engineering and Computer Science Students' Association tomorrow to continue negotiations regarding ECA paying CUSA for services.

Scott White concluded by stating that the Co-Presidents had prepared a report on the goals and priorities for the year (BD-59-D2). He asked Directors to read the report, and the Co-Presidents would be happy to answer any questions.

5.2 Executive Reports:

Student Life V.P. Susan Hunt reported that the Concordia Council on Student Life (CCSL) had a "Budget and Priorities Committee" meeting today. The budget will be tabled at the CCSL meeting on Friday at 12:30 in AD-131 at Loyola. There are major changes coming, but as a committee member she could not elaborate on them. She added that the budget has to be approved by the Board of Governors before it is "written in stone".

Education V.P. Scott Robertson stated that in addition to his report (BD-59-D3), CUSA should be aware of changes that are coming to the federal copyright laws which will bring royalty charges on photocopies. This will mean an increase for students in the costs for materials. Scott White asked if there were exemptions for academic institutions, and Scott

Robertson replied that there are not any as of yet. Scott Robertson stated that this is going to affect the whole University, and the Board should write a letter to the government expressing its view.

Programming V.P. Cherine Hamam distributed a report (BD-59-D5). She added that the theme for this year's carnival is "Snowberfest", and pleaded for volunteers. Robert Douglas, Carnival Chairperson, asked for a volunteer to wear the bear costume as mascot for the carnival. Cherine Hamam reported that registration for the Mini-Courses would commence January 19th and would run for two weeks, and the Mini-Courses would start the week of February 2nd. She asked for volunteers to help with registration.

On behalf of the External Committee, Jeannette Chayer presented the External Committee Report (BD-59-D4). She stated that there were 13 members on the Committee when it started in November, and there are still 13 members. The committee has had four meetings, the minutes of which are available to Directors. She addressed the structural process that the Montreal Regional Council of ANEQ is undertaking, the loans and bursaries negotiations between the student movement and the government, and the External Committee's mandate and the unanimous decision of the Committee regarding the O'Keefe boycott, details of which can be found in the report.

On behalf of the Liaison Committee, Jim Locke stated that he would be meeting with the Co-Presidents on Monday at noon to discuss liaison in general. He reported that there had been a favourable response to the ad in the Link on December 3 outlining the status of the various CUSA groups--a dozen or so groups have contacted him.

Communications V.P. Paul Zaleski reported that Daniel Cross has had to resign. Paul Zaleski stated that he would be working full-time on the Communications portfolio now. Karen Takacs stated that Daniel's father was very ill and undergoing major surgery, and that Daniel would be travelling between Montreal and Toronto and Niagara. She added that he felt that he would be unable to maintain the responsibilities of the position, and he might even have to give up school. He has offered to come to the office to help out when he is in Montreal.

Scott White addressed the Services V.P. Report (BD-59-D6) on behalf of Brent Jones. He stated that it is an understatement to say that the Used Book Store is doing really well--it is incredibly successful in fact.

(8:25)

6 Question Period:

Scott Bergen asked what was being done to accommodate Felix Weekes's request for more space for storage for CAAP's food bank. Jim Locke responded that he had been talking with Brent Jones about this matter, and as he understands it the Philosophy Students' Association will move into a smaller room and give up their present office.

Morty Shapiro asked what connections there were with CUSA in the Ed Enos suit against Ian Halperin and Max Wallace. Scott White responded that this case originated in 1983-84 when Ed Enos sued "The Link" (and CUSA as publisher) for stories printed about him and the athletics department. The case was settled out of court for $5000 and the promise that neither Max Wallace nor Ian Halperin would write about Enos again. Scott White added that the story in "The Gazette" today about the warrant out for the arrest

of Ian Halperin refers to a perjury charge relating to the case and CUSA is not directly involved.

Ian Fleet asked why the Labour Pool was closed down. Scott White stated that it was a regrettable decision but that the Labour Pool had to be closed for the term because the benefits did not justify the costs. There will be an attempt to re-open the Labour Pool in the Spring for summer employment opportunities. Jim Locke asked what costs were involved and requested a financial report. Thomas Burnside, former Co-ordinator of the Labour Pool, offered to talk with Jim Locke after the meeting to fill him in on the facts and figures.

7 New Business:

7.1 Appointments to Cusacorp Board of Directors:

MOTION 374:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Milva D'Aronco, Ross Britton, Glen Cheverie, Tony Ghannamy, Mitchell Gross, and Lorne Wilansky be appointed to the Cusacorp Board of Directors for the 1986-87 term.

Moved by: Scott Bergen
Seconded by: Jim Locke

VOTE ON MOTION 374: 17/0/1 Carried

(8:30)

7.2 Sale of O'Keefe Products:

MOTION 375:

WHEREAS CUSA, in a Motion passed by Legislative Council in 1981, condeming the racist system of apartheid in South Africa, recognized disinvestment as a useful political tool, and moved its bank account from the Bank of Montreal to the Toronto-Dominion Bank; and

WHEREAS the political leaders of our country (and many others) have publicly condemned the apartheid system in South Africa and have recognized the usefulness of, instituted and called for, the use of economic sanctions and restrictions against any corporations who invest in, support or deal with the racist regime in South Africa; and

WHEREAS over 6000 Concordia students last year signed petitions which "condemned the practices of the South African government" stating that they were "unilaterally opposed to apartheid" and urged the University Administration to divest itself from any holdings or dealings with companies that "perpetuate the repugnant practices in South Africa"; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT CUSA and its affiliates refrain from dealing with, supporting, or promoting any companies (or the products thereof) that help to maintain the racist regime in South Africa, through direct or indirect investment, support or promotion of the regime.

This means that CUSA and its affiliates will no longer buy or sell, support or promote the products of Carling O'Keefe.

Moved by: Karen Takacs
Seconded by: Linda Piovesan

Discussion:

The Board decided to allot 30 minutes to each side of the issue to present their arguments. This motion was brought forward by the Concordia Students Against Apartheid, represented by Adrian Archer, Robert Douglas and Maxine Clarke. Adrian Archer explained that Concordia Students Against Apartheid asked CUSA to boycott O'Keefe products because the majority shareholder of O'Keefe was Rothman's Inc. which is owned by the Rembrandt Group of South Africa, as documented in BD-59-D1. He stated that the boycott could be called off when O'Keefe divests Rothman's interest in the company or when conditions change in South Africa and there is majority rule. He further stated that this boycott would be in line with the position taken by the McGill Students' Society. Maxine Clarke stated that in addition to McGill the following are boycotting O'Keefe at present: University of Saskatchewan, University of Toronto, MacDonald College, York, Dalhousie, Victoria and Windsor.

(8:50)

Peter Maren acted as spokesperson for the five-man contingent from O'Keefe. He thanked the Board for being given the opportunity to make this presentation. He stressed that O'Keefe was not out to stop any movement against apartheid in South Africa. He stated that O'Keefe is distressed with the misinformation being circulated on Canadian campuses. He argued that O'Keefe is a major Canadian company founded 146 years ago; O'Keefe does not purchase products in South Africa, has no employees nor operations, nor investments in South Africa; O'Keefe sold all its rights in South Africa and receives no royalties nor remuneration of any sort from South Africa; and there is no South African voice on the Board of Directors or in management; O'Keefe employs 5000 Canadian citizens, pays Canadian taxes, purchases Canadian goods and services and contributes to Canadian cultural and sporting events. He further stated that the majority shareholder is Rothman's Inc. of Canada which also has no employees, operations, royalty agreements nor investments in South Africa, and the same holds true for Rothman's International. He argued that the information presented by the Concordia Students Against Apartheid was based on data from 1981, however, since 1981, there was a restructuring period of three years and the control now stops with the British Rothman's company. He added that the following institutions have stopped boycotting O'Keefe since learning of the restructuring of the companies involved: University of Windsor, University of Toronto Law School and Ryerson Polytechnic. He concluded his presentation by stating that Carling O'Keefe's own union supports the anti-apartheid movement, Carling O'Keefe divested in 1980,

Carling O'Keefe does not buy or sell in South Africa, and it is a public company in which anyone can buy shares.

(9:20)

Amendment

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the phrase "that the Board determines" be inserted following "BIRT CUSA and its affiliates refrain from dealing with, supporting, or promoting any companies (or the products thereof)".

Moved by: Jon Jolivet
Seconded by: Jim Locke

Discussion

Karen Takacs stated that it is in the constitution that once CUSA passes a policy, it is up to the Board to ensure that the policy is carried out. In this regard she felt that the amendment was redundant and the real issue at hand should be discussed.

MOVE to call the question.

Moved by: Glen Cheverie
Seconded by: Jim Locke

There were no objections to this Motion.

VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT: 2/9/6 Defeated

The discussion on Motion 375 continued. The O'Keefe representatives stressed that no money leaves Canada because of O'Keefe's retained earnings policy. Adrian Archer maintained that the issue was the "connections" with South Africa, in this case South African investment in Canada.

MOVE to call the question.

Moved by: Jim Locke
Seconded by: Glen Cheverie

VOTE: 10/7/0 Defeated

The discussion continued. Karen Takacs introduced Nigel Crawhall of the McGill Students' Society, who stated that the focus of divestment was a moral issue not one of statistics and dollar amounts. He further stated that such a boycott would draw attention to symbolic connections, and urged directors to look at the larger picture of international economy.

MOVE to call the question.

Moved by: Glen Cheverie
Seconded by: Jim Locke

VOTE: 11/6/0 Defeated

The discussion continued. Jim Locke stated that no new information was being disclosed and called the question.

MOVE to call the question.

Moved by: Jim Locke
Seconded by: Glen Cheverie

VOTE: 12/5/0 Carried

VOTE ON MOTION 375: 8/7/2 Carried

8 Date of Next Meeting:

Chairperson John Moore announced that the next meeting of the Board would be held at Loyola during the first week of February, but the date, time and location would be confirmed later.

9 Announcements:

There were no announcements.

10 Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

John Moore.
John Moore, Chairperson

Jo Howard
Jo Howard, Recording Secretary